

One or More Service Components

Service components include elements of care recommended in EPSDT guidelines. These components include the following: initial/interval history, review of immunization status, height measurement, weight measurement, head circumference measurement, blood pressure measurement, hearing screening, vision screening, dental inspection, interpretive conference, anticipatory guidance, nutritional assessment, developmental assessment, tuberculosis testing, blood lead level testing, physical examination, and urinalysis testing.

One or More Initial/Interval Histories

An initial history, including past medical and surgical history, social history and family history is taken when a patient is new to a physician office. An interval history includes the same components as an initial history, but reviews the patient's medical history between his/her last visit to the physician and the current visit, and may be problem-focused.

Review of Immunization Status

An immunization review refers to the healthcare provider's assessment of the child's immunization status – if an immunization is due, if a series is complete, etc. Periodic review of immunization status is critical to ensure that appropriate childhood vaccination series are completed.

One or More Height Measurements

Measuring a child's height is one of the most obvious, direct ways to assess the status of a child's growth and development. Trending measurements can help the physician monitor dietary status, growth issues, and problems that may affect these measures. This also ensures that the child is on a consistent and desirable growth curve.

One or More Weight Measurements

Weight measurement is another direct growth and development indicator. Infants in the Medicaid population are particularly susceptible to low birth weight, so this measure is especially important to ensure these children begin to grow, develop, and progress into a more acceptable range.

One or More Blood Pressure Measurements

Blood pressure readings higher or lower than standards accepted by AAP may suggest conditions of hypertension or hypotension. Abnormal findings are indicators for further clinical interventions to address related issues such as weight loss, diet, and exercise. This increases the likelihood that the child will obtain or maintain an optimal health status.

One or More Vision Screenings

Vision screening is important for young people so suspected abnormalities can be treated early. Poor eyesight can often be easily corrected with glasses, but without screening, children with substandard vision are not likely to receive corrective lenses. Problems with vision can lead to developmental delay or learning difficulties.

One or More Hearing Screenings

Untreated hearing impairment can have a great impact on a child's school performance and social interactions. Beginning in June 2000, all providers were required to perform a hearing screen at birth for the Medicaid population, or make arrangements to follow up at the first office visit. Hearing screenings can include something as simple as a startle reflex to a comprehensive test like a Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) test.

One or More Dental Inspections

Dental health is another component of the EPSDT evaluation. Monitoring for the eruption of teeth and the status of the enrollee's dentition may also help with the diagnosis of other disorders of the mouth.

One or More Interpretive Conferences

The interpretive conference is the opportunity for the physician to discuss clinical findings with the patient and parents. This provides an opportunity for the parents to ask questions and receive education regarding the clinical findings. This component is often performed in conjunction with anticipatory guidance or used as a "bridge" to anticipatory guidance.

One or More Nutritional Assessments

A nutritional assessment is performed to determine if children are receiving a balanced diet. The assessment provides an opportunity for parents to discuss food choices and any problematic nutritional issues.

One or More Developmental Assessments

Developmental assessment evaluates the child's attainment of milestones, such as the child's first word, first step, and ability to separate fantasy from reality. A developmental assessment for younger children will be concentrated on these basics, and is used to help with identification of a developmental delay so that the impact of the delay can be minimized. Assessment for teenagers will focus on issues related to puberty and body changes, peer interactions etc.

One or More Physical Examinations

A complete physical examination includes inspection of the eyes, ears, nose, throat, chest, abdomen, and extremities.

Anticipatory Guidance

Anticipatory guidance gives a preview to parents and enrollees of future issues. At some ages, the physician will apprise the parent to expect physical changes, such as teething. Anticipatory guidance can also take the form of anticipating likely upcoming concerns such as exposure to alcohol and drug misuse for teens.

One or More Tuberculin Tests

Tuberculin testing is used to determine whether an individual has been exposed to tuberculosis. Tuberculin testing is administered as a skin test, that must be "read" in 72 hours to determine if the individual has been exposed.

One or More Blood Lead Tests

Blood lead level testing is necessary to assess children's exposure to lead. Lead is commonly found in the paint from older homes. The Medicaid population is at greater risk for lead poisoning, which can cause developmental retardation, because their disadvantaged economic situation is likely to result in living conditions in older homes and areas that have not been tested and dealt with appropriately.

One or More Urinalysis

Urinalysis testing is used to screen for a number of disorders. Protein, ketones, and other anomalies in the urine can indicate an underlying disorder that needs prompt attention.

Comprehensive EPSDT Care – to meet the definition of Comprehensive EPSDT care, the enrollee had to have the following:

- Physician examination
- Initial/interval history
- Health Education - one or more of the following:
 - Developmental assessment
 - Anticipatory guidance
 - Interpretive conference
- Measurement of one or more of the following as age appropriate:
 - Height
 - Weight
 - Head circumference
 - Blood pressure
- Immunization Review